



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE
***FORMER LOGAN CITY LANDFILL
MANAGER PLEADS GUILTY TO
DISCHARGING POLLUTANT INTO WATER***

SALT LAKE CITY – Randall R. Cook, 58, former manager of the Logan City Landfill, pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to a misdemeanor count of negligently discharging a pollutant into water which ultimately entered into Cutler Reservoir.

Sentencing is set for April 15, 2009, at 10 a.m. Cook faces up to a year in federal prison and a fine of \$100,000 for the conviction.

According to U.S. Attorney for Utah Brett L. Tolman, the Clean Water Act was enacted by Congress to maintain the quality of the nation's water and to prevent, reduce and eliminate water pollution. "We all have an interest in making sure our water is protected for public drinking, fish and wildlife, and other uses. Those who discharge pollutants into the nation's water without a permit can cause serious harm," Tolman said.

Cook admitted that in May 2005, while he was the landfill manager, he became aware that because of a heavy rainfall at the landfill, a pollutant created by water percolating through the garbage had accumulated in a ditch running alongside a road at the landfill. In an effort to clear the ditch, Cook said he pumped contaminated water through a culvert across the road where the polluted water flowed into a drain and ultimately into Cutler Reservoir which is considered “waters of the United States.”

According to EPA investigators involved in the case, water that comes into contact with waste in a landfill can contain many toxic pollutants that can be toxic to aquatic life.

“Runoff contaminated with leachate from municipal and industrial wastes must be managed appropriately to avoid the risk of polluting ground or surface water or harming people, fish, or wildlife,” said Lori Hanson, Special Agent in Charge for EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division in Denver. “If you disregard your obligation to obey the law, you will be prosecuted.”

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